

personnel. During the second half of 2002, 18 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multi-national Brigade, North, headquartered in the city of Tuzla. Additionally, U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of SFOR. These deployments include approximately 80 U.S. military personnel deployed to Hungary and Croatia to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes and to conduct counter-terrorism operations. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Ted Stevens, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 22.

Telephone Remarks to the March for Life

January 22, 2003

The President. Well, thank you very much, Nellie. I want to thank you very much for including me in the celebration of life. I want to thank the good folks there on the Mall today. I'm calling you from St. Louis, Missouri. I know there are some from Missouri there, and like many others, you've made great sacrifices to come to Washington today. A lot of you have ridden buses all night long, and I know you're braving the cold. And

I admire your perseverance, and I admire your devotion to the cause of life.

You all are gathered today on the National Mall, which is not far from the monument to Thomas Jefferson who, as you all know, is the author of our Declaration of Independence. And the March for Life upholds the self-evident truth of that Declaration, that all are created equal, given the unalienable rights of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And that principle of America needs defenders in every place and every generation.

In our time, respect for the right to life calls us to defend the sick and the dying, persons with disabilities and birth defects, and all who are weak and vulnerable. And this self-evident truth calls us to value and to protect the lives of innocent children waiting to be born.

You and I share a commitment to building a culture of life in America, and we're making progress. As the President, I have signed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, opposed the destruction of embryos for stem cell research, and refused to spend taxpayer money on international programs that promote abortion overseas.

Ms. Gray. Thank you.

The President. My administration is challenging the Oregon law that permits physician-assisted suicide.

Ms. Gray. Thank you.

The President. We support abstinence education and crisis pregnancy programs and parental notification laws. We offer compassionate alternatives to abortion by promoting adoption and extending State health care coverage for unborn children.

My hope is that the United States Congress will pass a bill this year banning partial-birth abortion, which I will sign. Partial-birth abortion is an abhorrent procedure that offends human dignity. I also urge the Congress to ban all human cloning. We must not create life to destroy life. Human beings are not research material to be used in a cruel and reckless experiment.

For 30 years, the March for Life has been sustained by constant prayer and abiding hope that one day, every child will be born into a family that loves that child and a nation that protects that child. And when that day

arrives, you will have the gratitude of millions, especially those who know the gift of life because you cared and you kept faith. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. from the JS Logistics company in St. Louis, MO, to march participants on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In his remarks, he referred to Nellie J. Gray, president, March for Life Education and Defense Fund. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the National Economy in St. Louis, Missouri

January 22, 2003

Thanks for the warm welcome—[*laughter*]*—*more inside than outside, I might add. [*Laughter*] But thank you all very much for giving me a chance to come and share some thoughts about this great land and some of the challenges that face us.

I'm particularly thrilled to be in a place where the entrepreneurial spirit is strong, and that is JS Logistics. It is strong because of the spirit of the guys who run the company, John and Greg, and the people that work with them to provide good service and product.

It's important for our fellow Americans to understand that the strength of our country, the strength of our economy really depends upon the strength of the small-business community all across America. And that's why I'm here today in this small business, to remind people about the importance of small business.

I brought Hector Barreto, who is the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. Thank you for coming, Hector. I know there's a lot of other small-business owners here from around the State of Missouri. I'm honored you came. Thank you for lending your support to what I am going to describe today as a way to make sure people can find work in America.

I want to thank the employees of this good company for putting up with the small entourage I travel with. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the folks that came to the roundtable today.

Not only were some employees of JS, but there's some folks who are running their own businesses and companies. We heard from single moms, newly married couples, people that are working hard to make sure the three-person company stays afloat. It was a good discussion, and I'm going to share some of the stories from that discussion with you in a minute.

I want you to know that this country has got some big challenges ahead of us. There's no question in my mind that we're going to meet every challenge. One of the challenges we have is to make sure that every American, from every walk of life, has a chance to succeed in this country. That's an important challenge, where I spend a lot of time talking about education, to make sure every child is educated, to make sure we insist upon high standards for our schools, to make sure that we measure to understand whether those standards are being met, and to make sure we solve problems early, before it's too late. No child in America should be left behind in this country.

Today I had the honor of meeting Dezzie Houston, who came out to Air Force One to say hello. She is a volunteer with the Missouri Mentoring Partnership. Where are you, Dezzie? Oh, there you are. Thanks for coming. The reason I bring this up is, part of making sure people aren't left behind in our society, we've got to recognize in our plenty there are people who hurt, and there are some who wonder whether or not the so-called American Dream is meant for them. And so long as any of us hurt, we all hurt. And one way to help heal hurt and encourage hope is to mentor somebody in need. You see, I like to remind people, Government can hand out money, but it can't put love into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when some caring individual finds somebody in need and says, "Can I help you? What can I do to help you make a better life?"

And this society of ours is filled with all kinds of heroes, American citizens doing their duty. And Dezzie is one such person. She told me that she has mentored three people, three teens, encouraging them to either go to college or how to find a job. I'm